

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: LUKANOV CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
EUR

1. SUMMARY: DURING JULY 17 CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS SPRINGSTEEN, BULGARIAN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH US VISIT THUS FAR AND SAID HE FORESAW
POSSIBILITY OF BULGARIAN PURCHASES IN US TOTALING \$100-
150 MILLION DURING COURSE OF YEAR. SPRINGSTEEN URGED
IMPROVEMENT IN BASIC RELATIONS, STRESSING SUCH STEPS AS
CONCLUSION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS
FOR EMBASSY, AND SETTLEMENT OF DEFAULTED BOND PROBLEM.
LUKANOV AGREED THAT PROGRESS SHOULD BE MADE ON POLITICAL
FRONT AND EXPRESSED BULGARIAN READINESS TO CONCLUDE CONSUL-
AR CONVENTION AND TAKE UP DEFAULTED BOND PROBLEM ISSUE.

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2. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV CALLED ON

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SPRINGSTEEN ON JULY 17. AFTER BRIEF WELCOMING REMARKS, SPRINGSTEEN ASKED LUKANOV FOR HIS VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

3. LUKANOV SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES NOW HAD ONE FOOT IN PAST AND ONE FOOT POISED FOR STEP INTO NEW RELATIONSHIP;

IT IS TIME TO PUT THAT FOOT DOWN AND MOVE FORWARD. ECONOMIC MATTERS ARE IMPORTANT BUT NOT THE ONLY AREA WHICH NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED. THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ALREADY IN OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS WHICH COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE: MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FONMIN MLADENOV, HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION GIVEN TO SENATORS VISITING SOFIA, RECENT INVITATION TO SECRETARY TO VISIT BULGARIA.

4. LUKANOV SAID THAT WHILE FUTURE PROGRESS NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS, AS FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL HE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ECONOMIC FIELD. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH SPIRIT AND CONTENT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS HELD SO FAR IN STATE, COMMERCE AND TREASURY. THERE WERE, OF COURSE, NO NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE AGREEMENT BUT TALKS PERMITTED BULGARIAN SIDE TO SEE PROBLEMS MORE CLEARLY; THEY INDICATED THAT THERE ARE NO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN SUCH THINGS AS MARKET DISRUPTION OR ARBITRATION PROCEDURES AND THAT ONLY QUESTION IS POLITICAL ONE OF DECIDING WHEN TO PROCEED. LUKANOV NOTED THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE BULGARIAN PURCHASES IN US TOTALING \$100-150 MILLION DOLLARS FOR END OF 1973 AND BEGINNING OF 1974, WITH MORE TO FOLLOW. HE WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER WITH US BANKS AND WITH PRESIDENT KEARNS OF EXIM BANK.

5. LUKANOV OBSERVED THAT MEETINGS WITH US BUSINESS FIRMS BEGIN ON JULY 18 AND THAT IF THESE TALKS ARE AS USEFUL AND ENLIGHTENING AS DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HAD WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THEN SUCCESS OF VISIT WILL BE ASSURED.

6. SPRINGSTEEN SAID WE ARE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING
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BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA AS WE ALREADY HAVE BEGUN TO DO WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ONE IMPORTANT MOVE HERE WOULD BE CONCLUSION OF CONSULAR CONVENTION. WE CONSIDER THIS KIND OF AGREEMENT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SINCE IT ESTABLISHES RULES UNDER WHICH WE CAN PROTECT OUR CITIZENS. AT TIMES NEGOTIATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS CAN BE DRAWN OUT AND DIFFICULT, BUT WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THEY ALSO

CAN BE CONCLUDED RAPIDLY WHEN THERE IS WILL ON BOTH SIDES TO DO SO. OTHER MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE SOLVED INCLUDE THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR OUR EMBASSY IN SOFIA AND DEALING WITH HOLDERS OF DEFAULTED DOLLAR BONDS.

7. SPRINGSTEEN SAID WE WELCOMED PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE SO FAR, SUCH AS MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FONMIN AND ESPECIALLY THE USEFUL COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO OTHER CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS, WHICH WOULD, AS LUKANOV NOTED, SERVE AS PROLOGUE TO ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS.

8. MR. LUKANOV SAID THAT ALTHOUGH POLITICAL AFFAIRS WERE NOT HIS FIELD, HE WAS AUTHORIZED BY FONMIN TO SAY THAT BULGARIANS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES MENTIONED BY US SIDE. THERE IS NO REASON WHY CONSULAR CONVENTION CANNOT BE CONCLUDED AS PRELUDE TO VISIT BY SECRETARY. BULGARIA IS ALSO WILLING TO DISCUSS BOND PROBLEM. LUKANOV REQUESTED IN THIS REGARD THAT BULGARIANS BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION ON OUTSTANDING BONDS; METHODS OF SETTLEMENT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND LEGAL BACKGROUNDS. BULGARIANS ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AGRICULTURAL, TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ARE READY TO HAND US DRAFT SEA TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. BULGARIANS RECOGNIZE NEED FOR COOPERATION IN MANY FIELDS, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE.

9. SPRINGSTEEN SAID WE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT INFORMATION LUKANOV REQUESTED ON BONDS IS PROVIDED TO BULGARIANS. REGARDING INVITATION TO SECRETARY TO VISIT SOFIA, SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AT PRESENT IS NOT CLEAR BUT WE WILL CONSIDER THIS MATTER IN DUE COURSE. IN THE MEANTIME, IT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE USEFUL TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSULAR CONVENTION AND SOLUTION OF OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES. RUSH

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